

remains basically unchanged to this day, and the parish is presently serving about 700 families. The first and smaller parish house was purchased from the estate of C.P. Porter in 1953 and originally served as the sister's covenant. A larger and more modern structure was then built and became known as the Parish House but was then demolished in 1997 to make room for a more spacious building to enhance the parish facilities.

I salute St. Joseph's Church as it is an icon in the city of Olney and has provided a sense of stability and constancy as it has endured many tests during the course of the last 150 years. Members of the church and community equally have had this pillar of strength given to them by the church, which is something that will expectantly remain important for the city of Olney for at least an additional 150 years.

HONORING NAT DIBUDUO AS THE 2007 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Nat DiBuduo, President of Allied Grape Growers in Fresno, for receiving the 2007 Agriculturist of the Year Award from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. His service and commitment to various agricultural organizations is worthy of respect and admiration. Some of these include The Big Fresno Fair, Fresno City Planning Commission, United Cerebral Palsy, the Bulldog Foundation at Fresno State, and the University's Viticulture and Enology Industry Advisory Board.

A native of California's San Joaquin Valley, Nat attended California State University, Fresno where he earned a B.S. in Plant Science/Viticulture and a minor in Business. Nat is also a graduate of the California Ag Leadership Program. Over thirty years ago his family pioneered the wine grape industry in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Nat has been able to glean valuable experience in wine grape production and processing through his involvement with his family's local winery. Nat holds a Certified Pest Control Advisor's license as well as a Department of Real Estate sales license. Nat's wide range of work experience has also contributed to his extensive knowledge in the agricultural field. One of his previous positions involved overseeing the farm management of 24,000 acres of winegrapes, nuts, and vegetables. He holds extensive exposure to regional wine growing in the Central San Joaquin Valley, and throughout other wine producing regions of the state.

Nat's proficiency is virtually unmatched. He was hired in May of 2000 to replace the outgoing president of Allied Grape Growers of Fresno, an organization which represents 500 grape growing members throughout the state of California. Together they annually produce 200,000 to 250,000 tons of wine grapes.

The leadership and commitment Mr. DiBuduo has shown in Fresno County, where he and his wife Marilyn live, has never

wavered. He personifies a man of great principle and integrity. Nat is a role model for all of us, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of agricultural professionals. It is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS McDONALD-LINN CHICAGO RIDGE POST 177 ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the VFW McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post 177 as they celebrate their 85th Anniversary. Through their dedicated and unwavering service to their community and their country, the veterans of the McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post continue a strong tradition of patriotism and duty.

Named in memory of two World War II servicemen killed in 1945, the McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post 177 has undergone many changes. The Post was originally chartered in November 1922 as the Joseph J. Lucas VFW Post 1671 and has since merged with other VFW Posts throughout the area. Charged with the purpose of promoting patriotism, aiding war veterans, and assisting the community, the veterans of Post 177 have distinguished themselves with their patriotic spirit and devotion to the community.

Throughout its long history, the McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post has endured its share of hardships. In 1974, an electrical fire destroyed the inside of the Post building. As a testament of the strong will of these veterans and the strength of their community, donations from VFW members enabled the veterans of the Post to rebuild the VFW building with their own hands. The McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post on Ridgeland Avenue continues to serve today as a community landmark and a place of camaraderie for our nation's heroes.

The extraordinary level of community involvement of the veterans of Post 177 has been a great source of pride for its members. As sponsors of the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition for high school students, they promote the values of patriotism while helping provide scholarships to enable high school students continue their education. The members of Post 177 are always ready to assist fellow veterans when they are in need, visiting sick veterans at home, in hospitals, or nursing homes.

I rise today to recognize the VFW McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post 177 on their 85th anniversary. Through their staunch patriotism and outstanding contributions to their community, the veterans of the McDonald-Linn Post nobly continue the legacy of service they began when they first answered the call of duty. I commend them for their ongoing community work and their courageous service to our country in time of war. I am honored that my district is home to such an exceptional organization, and I am proud to congratulate them on their 85th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE HOUSATONIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ENVIROTHON TEAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, today I take great pride in recognizing five extraordinary students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, CT who won this year's International Envirothon competition.

They started off their quest last fall by training for Connecticut's Envirothon, sponsored by the State's five conservation districts and the State's Department of Environmental Protection. The Envirothon, started in 1992 by Connecticut's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, now includes teams from 50 schools from around the State. Through this event, both students and teachers have benefited by meeting people working in a broad range of environmental careers and have experienced both professional and academic growth.

In preparation for the competition, each team, led by a teacher or advisor, receives curriculum materials and is invited to a series of training workshops. All of this extensive training culminates in a field day competition—this May, it was held in Farmington, CT. The hard-working students from Housatonic Valley Regional were the top-scoring team in four out of the five subject areas and garnered particularly high scores in Clean Renewable Energy, Wildlife, and Soils.

Their preparation paid off yet again as they competed in the extremely competitive Canon North American Envirothon, which took place in upstate New York. While competing against teams from over 40 States as well as a few Canadian provinces, Team Connecticut secured another first place victory—making them the Envirothon's international champion.

A particularly impressive accomplishment was Team Connecticut's Oral Presentation. With only 10 hours to prepare, in which they responded to a challenge to design and create a clean renewable school building, Team Connecticut scored 156 out of a possible 200 points. Team Connecticut's teamwork and talent shows how truly committed they are to a future founded on clean renewable energy and innovative ideas to keep our environment sustainable.

The students, Linnea Palmer Paton of Sharon, Andrew Alquesta of East Canaan, Sunny Kellner of Warren, Arlen Kleinsasser of Falls Village, and Jeremy Kleinsasser of Falls Village, will each be receiving \$5,000 in scholarships from the Canon North American Envirothon. I commend the students and their teachers for all of their hard work, as well as the Northwest Conservation District for encouraging their growth. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors and ask all the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating their great accomplishment.